

# **TOWN OF ROCKLAND**

## **Board of Selectmen**

Town Hall  
242 Union Street  
Rockland, Massachusetts 02370

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S OPEN SESSION held on Monday, May 16, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the H. Bernard Monahan Memorial Room, Town Hall, 242 Union Street, Rockland, Massachusetts 02370.**

**ATTENDANCE: Louis U. Valanzola, Lawrence J. Chaffee, Mary A. Parsons, Keven D. Pratt and Kelli A. O'Brien-McKinnon**

Chairman Lou Valanzola led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Valanzola informed the audience that Senator Michael Morrissey and Representative Robert Nyman are expected to join us tonight. He will, therefore, hold off on the FY06 Budget Discussion until they arrive.

### **A. MINUTES – NONE**

### **B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **1. Annual Appointments**

##### *Council on Aging – 3-Year Appointment*

Edward Borges – 127 Belmont Street  
Rita Howes – 390 North Avenue  
Linda Mann – 8 Walnut Ct.  
Audrey Ryan – 56 Liberty Street

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint**  
**Second: Mr. Pratt**  
**Vote: 5-0**

##### *Building Inspector-Alternate – Annual Appointment*

Robert Curran – 251 Auburn Street, Whitman

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to appoint**  
**Second: Mr. Chaffee**  
**Vote: 5-0**

## **B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Continued)**

### **1. Annual Appointments**

#### *Charter Maintenance Committee – Annual Appointment*

Mark Norris – (new address)  
Keven D. Pratt – 100 Hartsuff Street  
Kathlyn Ahearn – 7 Hawthorne Street

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint Mark Norris & Keven Pratt**

**Second: Mrs. O’Brien-McKinnon**

**Vote: 4-0-1 (Mr. Pratt abstained)**

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint new applicant Kathlyn Ahearn**

**Second: Mrs. Parsons**

**Vote: 4-0-1 (Mr. Pratt abstained)**

#### *Conservation Commission – 3-Year Appointment*

Charlene Judge – 624 Forest Street  
Roland Pigeon – 25 Division Street

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to appoint**

**Second: Mrs. Parsons**

**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Constables – 3-Year Appointment*

Gregory Collins – 10 Fairview Road, Pocasset  
Jerold Loomis – P.O. Box 339, Weymouth  
John Torchio – 15 Homestead Street, Brockton

**Motion: Mrs. O’Brien-McKinnon to appoint**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Counsel, Town and for Land Use – Annual Appointment*

Kopelman and Paige, P.C. – 31 St. James Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston  
Murphy, Lamere & Murphy – Ten Forbes Road West, Braintree (New Applicant)  
Pickett, Miyares & Harrington – 124 Watertown Street, Watertown (New Applicant)

New applicants spoke on behalf of their firms...BOS & Town Administrator asked questions. ZBA requested that we keep Kopelman & Paige.

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint Kopelman and Paige, P.C. for Town Counsel**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

## **B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Continued)**

### **1. Annual Appointments**

#### *Counsel, Town and for Land Use – Annual Appointment*

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint Kopelman and Page, P.C. for Land Use**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

**Motion: Mrs. Parsons to appoint Murphy, Lamere & Murphy for Labor**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Counsel, Tax Title – Annual Appointment*

Attorney Laura Powers – 800 Hingham Street

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to appoint Attorney Laura Powers – Tax Title**

**Second: Mr. Chaffee**

**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Cultural Council – 2-Year Term (Total of 6 years – 1 year off – then can reappoint)*

Claire Garvey – 127 Marks Street

Patricia Isaac – 99 Centre Avenue

Adrienne Donovan – 31 School Street

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Director of Emergency Management – Annual Appointment*

Robert Bowles – 78 Hingham Street

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Dog Hearing Officer – Annual Appointment*

Bradley A. Plante – 4 Pine Needle Drive, Norton

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to appoint**

**Second: Mrs. O'Brien-McKinnon**

**Vote: 5-0**

## **B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Continued)**

### **1. Annual Appointments**

#### *Gas Inspectors – Annual Appointment*

William Stewart – 40 Summit Street

Gary Young – Alternate – 499 Circuit Street, PO Box 1373, Hanover

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Historical Commission – 3-Year Appointment*

Adrienne Donovan – 31 School Street

Peter Dow – 31 Union Street

Ray Hebert – 47 West Water Street (new applicant)

James R. Paul, Jr. – 162 Webster Street (new applicant)

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee – to appoint**

**Second: Mrs. Parsons**

**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Internet Committee – Annual Appointment*

Denise Cicierega – 47 Willow Pond Drive

Sterling Smith – 6 Azalea Way

Mr. Chaffee complimented the Internet Committee on the work they have done on the Rockland Website.

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to appoint**

**Second: Mr. Chaffee**

**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Memorial Committee – Annual Appointment*

Mary Jane Letizia – 163 Damon Road

Thomas Murrill – 102 Spring Street

Donald Wright – 52 Warren Avenue

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

## **B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Continued)**

### **1. Annual Appointments**

#### *Metropolitan Area Planning Council – Annual Appointment*

Mr. Plante explained that there will be an opening on this council. Mr. George Anderson after many years is stepping down. He was thanked by Mr. Plante and the BOS for his years of service.

#### *Old Colony Planning Council Area Agency on Aging – Annual Appointment*

Rita Howes – 390 North Avenue

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint**  
**Second: Mrs. O’Brien-McKinnon**  
**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Open Space Committee – 3-year Appointment*

Katherine Kirby – 162 Liberty Street

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint**  
**Second: Mr. Pratt**  
**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Parking Clerk – Annual Appointment*

Elizabeth A. Parker – 104 Manzella Court

**Motion: Mrs. O’Brien-McKinnon to appoint**  
**Second: Mr. Pratt**  
**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Plymouth County Advisory Commission*

Lawrence J. Chaffee – 936 Union Street

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to appoint**  
**Second: Mrs. O’Brien-McKinnon**  
**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Registrars of Voters – 3-Year Appointment*

Randalin S. Ralston – 776 Market Street

**Motion: Mrs. Parsons to appoint**  
**Second: Mr. Chaffee**  
**Vote: 5-0**

## **B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Continued)**

### **1. Annual Appointments**

#### *Rockland Community Center Building Supervisory Committee – 3-Year Appointment*

Thomas Banks – 592 Union Street  
Richard Furlong – 677 Union Street

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint**  
**Second: Mrs. O'Brien-McKinnon**  
**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Tree Warden – Annual Appointment*

Robert Corvi, Jr. – 63 Concord Street

**Motion: Mrs. Parsons to appoint**  
**Second: Mr. Pratt**  
**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Weights & Measures, Sealer of – Annual Appointment*

Douglas Jeffery – 283 Bedford Street, Whitman

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint**  
**Second: Mr. Pratt**  
**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Wires, Inspectors of – Annual Appointment*

James R. Paul, Jr. – 162 Webster Street  
James J. Sawaya – 537 Summer Street  
Charles Pratt – 40 Monroe Street (Alternate)

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to appoint**  
**Second: Mrs. O'Brien-McKinnon**  
**Vote: 5-0**

#### *Youth Commission – 3-Year Appointment*

Judy Cusick – 83 Stanton Street

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint**  
**Second: Mrs. Parsons**  
**Vote: 5-0**

## **B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Continued)**

### **1. Annual Appointments**

#### *Zoning Board of Appeals – 3-Year Appointment*

Stanley Cleaves – 38 Greenwood Street  
Robert Manzella (Chairman) – 21 Manzella Court

**Motion: Mrs. Parsons to appoint**

**Second: Mr. Chaffee**

**Vote: 4-1-0 (Mr. Pratt opposed)**

#### *Zoning Board of Appeals (Associate/Alternate Members)- 3-Year Appointment*

Gregory Tansey – 9 Barstow Lane

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to appoint**

**Second: Mrs. Parsons**

**Vote: 5-0**

Mr. Plante – We have an opening for another alternate. Associate/Alternate Members are extremely important because if they run short on a meeting the a member of the alternates moves up. If we don't have enough alternates it can actually cause them to be unable to hold a hearing or do their business. If there is anyone out there who would like to be an alternate we now have two positions.

#### *Zoning Enforcement Officer (Assistant) – Annual Appointment*

Gerald F. Esposito – 874 Circuit Street, Hanover 02339

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

### **3. SSTDC – Set Date of Special Town Meeting**

SSTDC – Terry Fancher will address questions from Debby O'Brien (Open Space) and meets & bounds descriptions will be explained by Beth Mitchell. Mrs. Parsons - for a substantial revision like this it would be nice to know the exact locations of each and every parcel and what the acreage is on those parcels. Otherwise, the way that you have this written here....it could be anything. What are the checks and balances keeping you from changing what this is? Mr. Fancher – It is our belief that the map you have in front of you is the check and balance. Beth Mitchell – In the zoning by-law itself it provides that any substantial amendment to the map requires approval from the Towns. It does allow for us later, if it

becomes necessary, to go in and create legal descriptions for the boundaries but again it is our view that this is not necessary now. The zoning by-law as proposed has the same provision as the existing by-law, which is provisions that allow for the Zoning Enforcement Officer to interpret the boundaries should that become necessary. Mrs. Parsons questioned the boundaries and zoning changes. Beth Mitchell – The legal descriptions that were adopted in 1998 were an attempt to reflect the boundaries of zoning as adopted in 1998. In fact, we later determined that the boundaries weren't quite right. They were close, but they weren't exactly where a survey showed them to be. We went through the process of an insubstantial amendment to the zoning map to clarify that. We now have a new map. The new map shows distinct zoning districts. Any change to those zoning districts would be a substantial amendment and would require that it goes back before the Towns. A legal description is not a change to the boundary. A legal description is just putting in words what is already in pictures. If that becomes necessary it would be done as an insubstantial amendment. Mr. Chaffee – We are here to vote on a date for the Special Town Meeting. If Mrs. Parsons has a problem with the presentation you put before us perhaps it should be brought up on Town Meeting floor. Tonight should be a simple vote to set a Special Town Meeting date and not run the entire Special Town Meeting tonight. Mrs. Parsons – I beg to differ. Mr. Valanzola – I was actually going to say the same thing but in a different manner....would it hurt to put that information in there? Because at this point, if we go to Town Meeting and there are any questions at all, people don't want it handed out at the last minute. We appreciate getting the information but we don't want to jeopardize anything because people are getting the information at the last minute. Would it hurt just to put that in there? Mr. Fancher – I'll have to answer by saying that it's my belief that the warrant articles as presented would need to be presented to each of the communities .. I'm not sure if that changes the warrant articles in any size, shape, form or fashion. But again, I'd defer to Beth in answering that. Mr. Fancher points out an issue that we have. The Tri-Town board already approved the zoning as written without a meets & bounds description. To the extent that if we change it now it would have to go back through Tri-Town and new warrant articles would need to be submitted to all three Towns...not just Rockland. From a timing perspective, I do not believe the board is prepared to do that. If it would be helpful as part of Town Meeting, to provide more information to the Towns, I think we could certainly attempt do that with the engineers so that people would have a greater sense of comfort about how the words would reflect what's on the map.

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to set date for Special Town Meeting – June 27, 2005**

**Second: Mrs. O'Brien-McKinnon**

**Vote: 4-1-0 (Mrs. Parsons opposed)**

Bob Baker (Planning Board) – As you know any zoning changes that come before the Town have to go to the Planning Board for a public hearing so that we can make a recommendation at Town Meeting. That only gives us a couple of weeks to have a public hearing. I've used up all my secretaries money for a public hearing. The hearing has to be advertised in the papers two weeks before we hold our public



hearing. The meets & bounds have to be put in that ad. I don't want to get it thrown out because of a technicality with the Attorney General's Office. We have to come up with some money. Answer: You will bill SSTDC and they will give it to LNR. They are also paying for the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Baker – We may want to hold the Planning Board's public hearing at the high school....we are anticipating a lot of people coming. Mr. Valanzola – How long do you think you will need to get ready for that meeting? Mr. Baker – A couple of weeks anyway... you're probably looking at the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in June. I have to get the whole board to vote on when we can hold the public hearing. Mr. Chaffee – Let us know a.s.a.p. so that we can arrange the high school. (Mr. Fancher – We have made an offer to Mrs. O'Brien (Open Space) to be there on one of their Wednesday night meetings.) Beth Mitchell will send Mr. Baker the meets & bounds description for the newspaper notice. This was discussed in more detail.

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee open Warrant for Special Town Meeting (June 27, 2005) and insert the 2 articles concerning South Weymouth Naval Air Station and SSTDC.**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to close Warrant**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

## 2. FY06 Budget Discussion

*Senator Michael Morrissey and Representative Nyman – Materials were distributed: Cherry Sheet and news release from Mass Taxpayers Foundation. I'll send the numbers for Chapter 70 and the lottery numbers to Mr. Plante. The point is Chapter 70 is up \$130,000 (that was the amendment from H400); your local aide is up \$130,000 and the lottery is up \$210,000...those numbers will hold true in the Senate so there is no real debate on that issue. There may be attempts to increase it more but as a practical matter it will probably not prevail. Those are strong numbers and should be heavily relied upon. Nothing is final until it passes the Senate and the Governor signs it. Speaking of signing, he still has your bill....he's going to run the 10 days on your bill but I don't see any reason why that wouldn't pass. I know you had questions about lottery monies and expectation that there is some kind of giant surplus going on in the State. We had a 15% revenue reduction in 2002 we came out of that crisis not too bad, however, the problems we have now are of a different nature. We have a fundamental imbalance between the rate of growth and State revenues and the rate of growth and spending that the State is obligated to. You have some of those problems locally like health care and pension related issues. These are first line obligations. When the Governor says that we have plenty of money and that there is a \$700 million dollar surplus, (I'm going to have to hire his accountant) because Governor Romney's proposed 2006 budget is less than 1% spending growth. It also deals with Medicaid cost shifting to achieve balance. Medicaid spans twelve months but the bills for June do not come in until after July 1<sup>st</sup> so he said let's cut*

out one month and we'll only fund it for eleven months. Well the following year you are going to have the full blown cost. Mr. Valanzola – He's able to do that legally? No, we are not going to approve it. We've done a lot of things to try and bring back the Commonwealth. We have raised taxes and fees. To put it simply: State spending growth in core programs will consume all of the revenue growth generated by the States economy and tax base over the long term leaving next to nothing for restoring budget cuts or funding new initiatives. In particular; Medicaid growth, debt service, education, court debts and pension funding. There are other small programs which we are mandated to pay. When you consider that, these require almost a billion dollars in additional expenditures before considering inflation. If there is a so called "surplus" someone is going to have to tell me where it is. I guess I'd ask the BOS if the Governor would like to reduce income tax 5.3 to 5.0 then I don't know how we fund local aide if we are cutting our revenue source. Mr. Valanzola – First I would like to thank you (Senator Morrissey & Representative Nyman) for coming here tonight. We do care about coming here, we had Hanover's Town Meeting and we told the Town Administrator that we couldn't be here that night. We were a little disturbed that the inference was put out there that we kind of blew this board off. That would never be the case. We tried to give an alternative date and it troubled us greatly that someone thought we didn't care enough to come to Rockland. I hope there is no misunderstanding. You may not like the answers. but we'll be happy to give them to you. A number of communities have actually taken a stand against the Governor's tax cut and said if there is a surplus put it into local aide. We welcome your input on that. Like everything else, you have to remember the less the Federal Government does often the more the State Government does. When you have heavy reliance on State Aide, that sometimes hurts a lot. We've tried to maintain levels of aide and help and assistance to communities that need it. The numbers are up so we are sharing in whatever revenue growth that we have but we are still trying to maintain those programs... we spend over 1.1 million dollars in mental retardation services and a lot of it is court mandated. We tell people after you take away all the things that you are obligated to pay (utilities, pensions, assessments, etc.) there is only about 30% (it's still 7.5 billion dollars) that's what we see at the State budget. When you break those costs down, higher education is ¾ of a billion dollars, Dept. of Mental Retardation is a billion dollars, Department of Public Safety is a billion dollars so the areas that you are talking about funding and cutting ... there isn't much left. We have not initiated any new programs we are still trying to keep our heads above water and meet the commitments that we have. I don't think you are going to find any new initiatives for a long time. Local Aide is one of our priorities. If Governor Romney's budget stands, he level funded Chapter 70 local aide lottery assistance so you will be working with the same dollars as you did last year. Level funding is still a cut, we are now in a position that things are hopefully coming back so we are able to add a little more. Local Aide is very important and we are doing what we can....it's never enough but at least we are doing a little more than we did last year and a lot more than what the Governor had suggested in his budget. Under the Constitution we are required to balance our budget—in the highest point in June of 2002, \$1.7 billion in the stabilization fund we have used a lot of that money to help ease that burden and transfer down (in the 1<sup>st</sup> year it went down to \$880 million, 2003 it was \$650 million, they figured

*this year there would be a \$350 million transfer to make ends meet, we added capital gains money and that should make this years \$700 million). We still have other unanticipated costs (example: we plow more roads). That has been a staggering bill for the State as well as the Towns. Other expenses are unemployment cost and health insurance costs. Finally, the lottery estimates what their budgetary amounts are. We don't know the amount until after we do the budget. This year they are raising that cap. Last year we made an effort to returned more lottery aide after we saw what the numbers were at the end of the year. You should be aware that the pull tab games are down 21%, game tickets are down 8% charity games & bingo are down 17%, Keno is down 1.8% and Mass Cash is down 1.4%. People have had questions about the lottery revenues: 23% goes to the local communities, 70-71% goes back to the prize structure, lottery agents receive 5% and the rest goes to lottery administration. (The lottery formula was explained). By way of an explanation: If you say the Towns that sell the most lottery tickets should get more back....the people who pay the most property taxes say the same thing and it just doesn't work that way. You try to be fair and reasonable in the distribution. The only way you could change this formula would be with the Mass Municipal Association (if they had a formula to revamp the lottery) but this would weigh heavily in the legislature. Remember for every action there is a reaction; you would be taking from some to give to others. Mr. Chaffee – I think the reason we wanted to see you was the issue with the \$700 million surplus and then we have another surplus for this year. Obviously, I think the Governor may be campaigning for President. The fact of the matter is, if he has a \$700 million surplus – the Town of Rockland is \$1.1 million in the hole (some of that is snow). The Town of Norwell is \$2.2 million in the hole and they are looking at budget cuts, services cuts and things like that. If there is a surplus in the State, instead of cutting the sales tax back, try sending some of that money in our direction. That was the message I wanted to get to you tonight. If you do a resolution by the BOS we would be happy to deliver that to the Governor. I haven't even touched on the idea of Capital Gains. The surplus was created by creative budget accounting (blackboard magic) because if you pay only eleven months of Medicaid your going to save \$500 million that doesn't mean it's a surplus...we owe that. We changed Capital Gains from a sliding scale to a fixed rate (5.3%) we did that May 1<sup>st</sup> of that year and the Supreme Court came down and rules that you can't have two different taxation rates for the same classes of people being taxed in the same year. This issue was explained in detail. If you want to go on record and pass a resolution, we'd love to have the support and we'll pass it on to the Governor. Mr. Plante – Explained that we had sent a letter to the lottery asking how much revenue was coming out of the Town of Rockland. Basically what came back in this letter is what the Senator just described. But I wanted to share that in 2004 Rockland Lottery Sales were \$17,370,175 and Lottery Aide was \$2,324,739. I think the question that I would have is that the lottery was originally intended to make up for when Proposition 2 ½ was passed many years ago, and was intended entirely for cities and towns. Actually the lottery was in effect before Proposition 2 ½ it has been geared entirely to cities and towns except for one change for the Arts Councils (they get small grants out of small portions of lottery proceeds). I guess recently there have been some attempts by the administration to use some of*

those funds for the State Budget. I read in an MMA bulletin that there was legislation to stop that. *Senator Morrissey explained this in more detail. Basically they pick a number that they think it's going to come in, if it goes over that and they cap it at that number and generally it's lower than what they anticipate. So do they use it for the State? I guess you can say that they do. But in other years they have had supplemental returns but the commitment they made over the next four years is that they won't cap at all. Whatever it is, it is coming back. That also means that with the decline of the revenue that you are seeing ... you are also going to face the decline. If the lottery revenues do not continue to climb, we will not make up that shortfall. So if the games have "jackpot fatigue" you will also bear the burden of an unsteady revenue source.* Mr. Valanzola – Do you see any more movement of monies coming back to cities and towns realistically? *At the end of the fiscal year when they take a look at all the revenues there might be a supplemental appropriation for our lottery distribution. They would have to have a pretty good year. If the Governor had his way, you'd get what you got last year. Our members and the Senate members have said local aide has taken enough wacks, lets do what we can. Is it where you want to be? No, but it's still \$400,000 more that's coming into Rockland that came here last year.* Mr. Chaffee – Brought up the A.W. Perry situation with Rockland providing everything but the land. Questioning whether or not legislation could be written up. *I've never seen an agreement in lieu of taxes where one community benefits from the taxation of another community on real property taxes and buildings. The agreements would be the only way to do it, but I question under the Constitution you have a right to tax revenues from a separate community. You have no right to the money. The only way you can do it, I guess, would be long term agreements. This fiscal year the Community Center in Rockland was given a \$50,000 grant. We just want to make sure that money has been spent? It's very important because the fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup> and if they money has not been used we need to carry it over. I don't want to see that money jeopardized.* Mr. Chaffee- I know they put new lighting on the building, the new cement stairway and the water heater. Mr. Plante – Will check and make sure that money has been spent. The BOS thanked Senator Morrissey and Representative Nyman for coming.

## **C. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Sewer Commission Re: Sewer Plant EPA Permit Renewal**

John Loughlin gave a report on the Sewer Plant EAP Permit renewal, the processes involved with it and some serious challenges that will be faced with this new permit. The EPA as well as the DEP grants a permit that allows us to discharge into French's Stream. These permits are issued every five years. Our permit expires on July 13, 2005. Tom Spearin (Metcalf & Eddy) explained this in more detail. Basically there are four changes to the permit which will require an upgrade to the waster water treatment facility and will result in higher operating and maintenance costs for the facility. The EPA has acknowledged that the existing facility does not have the technology to meet the new changed imposed. What they have agreed to do is to negotiate with the Sewer Commission what we call a compliance schedule to meet the changes that need to be imposed.

## **C. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

### **1. Sewer Commission Re: Sewer Plant EPA Permit Renewal (Continued)**

The compliance schedule was discussed. Questions were asked by the BOS.

### **2. Accept Funds from Blue Cross Blue Shield**

Mr. Valanzola read a letter from Blue Cross Blue Shield. Enclosed was a check for \$175,000 to address some of the Town's challenges.

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to accept \$175,000 from BC/BS in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44: Section 53A**

**Second: Mrs. Parsons**

**Vote: 5-0**

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to take up to \$50,000 to buy a new van for the COA**

**Second: Mrs. Parsons**

**Vote: 5-0**

Mr. Plante – The remainder of that money will be placed in a "Selectmen's Gift Account". The BOS is the only one who can spend that money.

**Motion: Mrs. Parsons to replace \$15,000 debt exclusion for the heating system at the library with the Selectmen's Gift Account**

**Second: Mr. Chaffee**

**Vote: 4-0-1 (Mrs. O'Brien-McKinnon abstained)**

### **3. Award Contract for Fuel – SERSG**

Mr. Plante explained that we are an associate member. Town Meeting voted to authorize us full membership into municipal agreement. This is one that Mr. Corvi was involved in on the bid and this will lock us in (this is unleaded gas and diesel).

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to award to SERSG**

**Second: Mr. Chaffee**

**Vote: 5-0**

### **4. Approve Permit for American Legion Poppy Drive**

Letter from Charlie Kimball – requesting permission to hold a poppy drive from May 22 – 28, 2005 at the banks and Lukes Liquors. We also plan to recruit some of the Rockland American Legion Baseball team members to help us. Mr. Chaffee just wanted to make mention that we also have a poppy drive going on from May 19 – 28 because we approved the Old Colony Auxiliary poppy drive last meeting. It won't be the same poppy drive, it's divided up into two different groups.

### **C. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

4. Approve Permit for American Legion Poppy Drive (Continued)

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve Poppy Drive for American Legion**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

5. Transfer Common Victualler – Brown Bag Deli

New owners Anastasia Moskovis and husband introduced themselves to the BOS.  
They are excited to start their new business.

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

6. Request Increase Ambulance Rates – Fire Chief

After surveying the surrounding towns the Rockland Fire Department Ambulance  
Would like to raise their rates as follows:

Advanced Life Support (ALS)	\$475.00
Advanced Life Support (ALS 2)	600.00
Basic Life Support (BLS)	380.00
Mileage	14.00 per mile
Oxygen	75.00
Esophageal intubation	150.00
Defibrillation	150.00

All other rates would remain the same.

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

7. Request to Approve Entertainment License – DJ's Pub

No one showed up from DJ's Pub.

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to table**

**Second: Mr. Chaffee**

**Vote: 5-0**

8. Change of Manager on Liquor License – Rockland Eagles

Paul S. Milan the new manager of Rockland Eagles introduced himself to BOS.

### **C. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

#### **8. Change of Manager on Liquor License – Rockland Eagles (Continued)**

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve Change of Manager to Paul Milan**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0**

### **D. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

We have received the first payment from A.W. Perry for the \$25,000 annual contribution to the Parks Department. That is a ten year commitment.

I have the Selectmen Liaisons to go over but given the late hour I didn't know if you wanted to put this off?

**Motion: Mr. Pratt to table Selectmen Liaisons**

**Second: Mr. Chaffee**

**Vote: 5-0**

### **E. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Valanzola read the following correspondence:

From John J. Kosko, Superintendent, SSVTHS: Follow-up on Julie Smith (Student of the Year at SSVTHS). Competing in the District SkillsUSA Conference she won a gold medal in Cosmetology. This qualifies Julie to represent Massachusetts at the National Leadership and Skills Conference that will be held in Kansas City, Missouri During the week of June 21<sup>st</sup>. Everyone expressed congratulations to Julie.

### **F. OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Chaffee – Reminded everyone about the Memorial Day Parade on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Parsons – None

Mr. Valanzola – Had several articles regarding how towns dealt with their budget deficits. He is concerned that we are a million dollars in the hole. He's not sure if an override is an option at this point. There is no way to sugarcoat this or make this sound nice. As we get further along in FY06, it just means that we are going to have to cut from the budget. We need to make some tough decisions. Mr. Valanzola read a letter that went out to Department Heads asking them to try and only spend 1/12 of their budget. He explained why he didn't think this would work. The sooner we get together and make the cuts the better because as soon as we get too deep into the year the cuts are going to be magnified. I'm sorry if it sounds negative but it's just the way it is.

Happy Birthday to Charlie MacDonald.

## **F. OPEN FORUM (Continued)**

Mr. Pratt – Wanted to thank everyone for coming out to Town Meeting. It was a long night and we put to bed the Town's business. We did pass a budget that was in deficit. We'll keep an eye on that and take it as it comes at this point. Basically, I just wanted to thank everyone for coming out. It was a lot of work to get that done in one night.

Mrs. O'Brien-McKinnon – Regarding the budget: my only concern is when making the cuts we involve all the appropriate Department Heads and Union Representatives so that it's a fair cut across the board. At least then everyone is in agreement and we do it as a group. Mr. Valanzola – I wouldn't have it any other way.

Mr. Edward Kimball – Is the Town looking to do an override for the budget deficit?  
Mr. Valanzola – That was one of the issues we just saw with two towns (Easton & Norwell) both shot it down. I'm not sure there is an appetite in this Town for it. We saw it twice last year alone with the roads. People are not willing to vote for the override or debt exclusion. If an override isn't an option, we better get back real soon. We better not wait until October or November because as we saw with the State tonight, there is nothing more coming from them. Mr. Plante: Obviously this board is the only one that can call a special town election and put it on the ballot. If you decide to do that it doesn't make much sense to do it until after the summer. If you try doing it during the summer...half the Town is not here. And then you have to back it up with a Special Town Meeting because it's a two part vote. Mr. Valanzola – I still would like to get a free cash number by early Fall. I know we are asking a lot of you, but if you can keep from rehiring anyone (I know all these departments are strapped) but you hate to see anyone hired and then laid off again in the Fall. My bottom line is that I want to prevent laying off anybody. Mr. Pratt – Perhaps we should consider a hiring freeze. Mr. Valanzola – That I would agree with but, unfortunately, we signed an agreement with the Fire Department and to hire back two Police Officers...you hate to go back on that...you also have the Assistant Town Accountant that will retire in July. Chief Donovan gave his views on hiring men knowing that he may be laying them off. It's just something he wouldn't do.

**Motion: Mr. Chaffee to adjourn at 9:53PM and enter Executive Session for purposes of potential litigation and not to reconvene.**

**Second: Mr. Pratt**

**Vote: 5-0 Mr. Chaffee-yes, Mrs. Parsons-yes, Mr. Pratt-yes, Mrs. O'Brien-McKinnon-yes and Mr. Valanzola-yes**

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**LAWRENCE J. CHAFFEE**  
**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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**BRADLEY A. PLANTE**  
**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**